

Department of Workforce Services, Utah Office of Child Care  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
9750 S 300 W, SLCC, Miller Campus, Free Enterprise Center  
10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Room 150 C & D  
**November 9, 2005**

*Presiding: Carrie Stott – Chair*

<b>Time</b>		<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
10:00 a.m.	1.	Welcome ..... W&FL New Staff Person, Michael Britton	Carrie Stott
10:05 a.m.	2.	Review of Minutes..... Approval of Full Committee Meeting, September Review Executive Advisory Committee Meeting Notes, September	Carrie Stott
10:10 a.m.	3.	Sub-Committee Reports School-Age Sub-Committee..... Governor's Signing of the Proclamation ..... Quality Sub-Committee Update ..... Public Awareness Sub-Committee .....	Bobbie Ikegami Michael & Caroline Teresa and Sheila Michael & Laura
10:25 a.m.	4.	Utah Educational Savings Plan .....	Anna West
10:45 a.m.	5.	Licensing Update .....	Donna Thomas
11:05 a.m.	6.	Early Childhood Council.....	Lynette, Terri Russo & Janet Wade
11:25 a.m.	7.	Director's Report..... Budget Legislative Issues CCDF Matching Funds	Lynette Rasmussen
11:45 a.m.	8.	Old & New Business, Chair Comments ..... • Suggestions for keynote speaker at May Conference	Carrie Stott
11:50 a.m.	9.	Public Comment	

**ADJOURN**

**Attending (\*denotes voting member):**

Shalome Orton  
Anna West  
Teresa Whiting  
Dave Baldwin  
Karen Silver  
Shauna Lower  
Colleen Fitzgerald  
Caroline Kueneman  
Michael Britton  
Janna Forsgren  
Ann Stockham  
Diane Wilkinson  
Johnny Anderson  
TaeSeok Kim  
Dinice Maiden  
\*Carolyn Forbush  
\*Anna Anderson

\*Laura Traum  
\*Jan Bennett  
\*Scott Nielsen  
\*Donna Thomas  
\*Hydee Willis  
\*Kris Hale  
\*Sheila Lewis  
\*Janet Wade  
\*Pete Maiden  
\*Sarah Yerman  
\*Lynette Rasmussen  
Christi Christian  
\*Carrie Stott  
\*Bobbie Ikegami  
Charlene Catania  
Mr. Catania  
\*Karen Crompton

**Excused/Absent:**

\*Judie Erickson  
\*Meg Buonforte  
\*Theresa Creel  
\*Judy Hull  
\*Erin Trenbeath-Murray

**ITEM 1      Welcome**

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Carrie welcomed all to the meeting. She extended a special welcome to the new board members who weren't at our first meeting. Jan Bennett, Public-At-Large, representative and Kris Hale, Corporate Representative.

Carrie then invited everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves.

The Office of Work & Family Life has a new staff person. Michael Britton is the Community Partnerships Specialist. He will be responsible for all written material that goes out of the office. Michael will be the staff person over the Public Awareness Sub-Committee. Michael is looking forward to providing valuable communication with the general public.

**ITEM 2      Review Minutes**

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MOTION to approve the September full meeting minutes- Hydee Wills.  
SECOND- Sheila Lewis  
CARRIED

The Executive Meeting Minutes are included in the packets for everyone to review. If there are any questions, you may contact Carrie Stott.

### **ITEM 3      Sub-Committee Reports**

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**School Age Sub-Committee-** The School Age Sub-Committee met on October 12<sup>th</sup> to get feedback on the Youth Connections Grant. Overall there was positive feedback on the Grant. Some of the comments included that grantees appreciate the flexibility of the funding; they didn't think that the YC Grant should give preference specific to geographical need, and they appreciated that the school age licensing rules would be redefined.

**Governor's Proclamation-** On October 7, Caroline Kueneman, along with children and caregivers of an afterschool program in Salt Lake went to the Governor's office to witness the signing of the proclamation declaring Oct 20-27, 2005 Lights On AfterSchool Week. Michael shared a slide show of the event.

Carrie asked if anyone was able to participate in a Lights On AfterSchool event in their area. Teresa's nephew, Philip attends an afterschool program and had a party at Murray Park. Carrie went to a park in her area where the candidates were invited to attend and share their platform. Parents could approach the candidates and ask their stand on afterschool care. Brigham City invited parents to come with their kids and have a tour of the program. The mayor and representatives were also invited to attend. Washington Elementary combined activities with the PTA and Red Ribbon Week.

**Quality Sub-Committee-** This month, all the CCRRs are holding provider feedback meetings on the Quality Improvement Grants. OCC wants to know how providers feel about the process. The Sub-Committee will meet in December to review the comments from the meetings to see if improvements can be made to make the process better for providers.

**Public Awareness Sub-Committee-** The Public Awareness Sub-Committee is meeting during lunch today. Over the next few months the Sub-Committee will be meeting to talk about updates to the Talking Points Card.

Also this year, OCC will be sending out Trend Reports. The Public Awareness Sub-Committee will help with these. Michael has included, in the packets, a working outline of the trend reports planned for the year. If you have any suggestions, please come to the meetings, or email Michael.

When Lynette took the assignment of being Director at OCC six years ago, she met with various people to see what OCC should be doing that it wasn't. She spoke to Representative Roz McGee, who at the time was the Director of Utah Children. Roz said that she would like to see OCC send out Trend Reports. Finally, with the hiring of Michael, we are able to do that. Each year, we are required to report on the status of child care in Utah. Every year we have put out an annual report, but never actually reported on the status of child care. What a huge opportunity we are missing! These trend reports will do that.

The trend reports will focus on one or two issues and show how that issue affects accessibility, affordability and quality.

Karen Crompton hopes that the Talking Points card will include information from the Economic Impact Study. It sure will!

Shauna Lower said that regarding the Trend Reports; she doesn't see any focus on provider professional development and training. It's not on the plan now, but this is a very fluid plan and only the first year. There is opportunity to focus on it in the future. Colleen pointed out that with almost every focus, training will play in as being an important component of quality.

**Infant/toddler Sub-Committee-** This sub-committee won't meet until an Infant/Toddler Specialist has been awarded the contract.

Carrie wanted to communicate that anyone interested in an issue can attend the sub-committees. You don't have to be a board member and you can attend any sub-committee that you are interested in.

#### **Item 4      Utah Educational Savings Plan**

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Anna West is from the Utah Educational Savings Plan, or 529 savings plan program. This is a college savings plan administered by the State Board of Regents. Every state has a sponsored college savings plan; this is Utah's. One does not need to live in Utah to use the plan and does not need to attend college in Utah to use the money. Utah's plan is rated among the nations best. However, currently only 8% of the open accounts are from Utah residents.

Along with paying tuition, books and supplies, boarding can be paid for with the account funds. A beneficiary must be chosen when the account is open, but can be changed to another family member at any time. There can be more than one account open for any person and any person can open up multiple accounts. Those who contribute receive a tax break.

Ann passed out a packet of information and a gift bag.

Anna asked for ideas on how to get the information out to more Utah residents.

Suggestions:

- Handout at schools- get in touch with principals and state PTA (Meg Buonforte)
- Send a postcard to new mothers
- Pediatrician offices
- University Neighborhood Partners
- Office of Ethnic Affairs
- Professional Development Conference
- Work/Life Celebration
- Work with United Way
- Give information to Head Start
- Work with child care providers to advertise for you in their programs (posters)

**Questions:**

Can UAEYC put a link on their website to yours? -Laura Traum

Yes, Anna will be in touch with you to discuss that.

Are you connected to Upromise? –Johnny Anderson

No. Upromise is New York's College Savings Plan.

Is the information available in Spanish?

No, but we are working on it.

Is the money guaranteed? –Sarah Yerman

No. This is an investment account, not a savings account. The funds may fluctuate and are not guaranteed.

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**Item 5                      Licensing Update**

Donna Thomas gave an update on licensing. The Legislative Audit is complete. The main finding of the audit is that there were variances granted on background checks that shouldn't have been granted. Variances are no longer being granted. As providers' licenses expire, they will not be renewed unless the provider gets the charges expunged.

The Licensing Director job has been posted and interviews are being set up. DOH is hopeful to have someone hired by Christmas.

Donna is hiring a new licensing specialist in the Salt Lake office. You can go to the DOH website to apply. The job posting closes on Friday.

Ten more licensors are getting their playground safety training. For the next few years the inspections will be just to tell providers what needs to be fixed to come into compliance. Then, citations will be issued.

All rules for all provider types are being reviewed and clarified to make them similar across the board. Rules for school age programs will be re-written as a new set of rules. Donna will be contacting interested parties to get feedback on the draft of those. The draft should be done in the next few months. There is a Licensing Advisory Meeting tomorrow and an initial draft will go out.

The Administrative Rules are now open for comment. Email any feedback on any rules to Penny Knudson.

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**ITEM 6                      Early Childhood Council (ECC)**

USU has received a Federal Grant to provide collaboration with early childhood programs in the State. Terri is the staff for the ECC Council. Karen Crompton and Lynette Rasmussen have served as co-chairs of the council. Karen is outgoing this year and the council is currently

looking for a new vice chair. Karen will be working on a project to organize a children's cabinet. Many Advisory Board members are also on the ECC.

There are four Sub-Committees of the ECC, and the new children's cabinet idea:

- Data- George Devlin is the Chair. Whenever the council needs data, this sub-committee helps us gather the information and to make the projects data driven.
- Early Care and Education
- Health and Well-Being- this committee is creating a short power point for all groups who are meeting with parents. [www.utahclicks.org](http://www.utahclicks.org) it's an on-line application system for all kinds of services.
- Family Support
- Governor's Cabinet on Children- Karen Crompton will be the chair. The Governor's office appoints someone to be over the cabinet and then organizations that have an interest become involved. Some cabinets are broad, some form a budget, and some focus on a very specific issue.

The Sub-Committees have had several meetings working on seven goals. Some of the goals include:

- Gathered all initiatives in the state to see how we can all collaborate together. Asked that coordinators meet on a regular basis to see what one another is doing to combine strengths.
- Sending out an electronic survey to get feedback on how the public and other agencies perceive early childhood services in the state. Hoping to send this out next week. If you have email lists, please give them to Terri. She is hoping to reach parents, providers, other agencies, and the general public.

The Kids Count Data Book will be released again in January. School Readiness will be the focus this year and collaborated with ECC.

The Early Learning Guidelines- In December, the board will hopefully approve the final draft of the Early Learning Guidelines project. They will be formally distributed at the May Provider Conference.

The Utah Family Center is developing parent education workshops based on the guidelines. The USOE is working with schools to know the Early Learning Guidelines and the Office of Child Care is going to be sharing the guidelines with providers. Head Start is also involved in this project.

There will be a press conference and a big deal made once these are officially released. These are just guidelines, not policy, rules or standards.

Also at the May Conference, OCC will launch the new Care About Child Care Commercial, which focuses on numeracy.

## **ITEM 7      Director's Report**

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### **Budget**

The handout in the packets show the OCC budget, excluding child care subsidy. The last section is the contracts and services provided by the office.

**New projects for this year:**

- Infant/Toddler Specialist- The Baby Steps program has been very successful, but takes a lot of time. This RFP is to contract with another organization that will employ the specialists so that they can work with providers across the state.
- Quality Improvement- Teresa is working to make revisions to the Quality Improvement Grant to make it better for providers.
- Research projects- Supply and Demand of After School Care, and the Family, Friend and Neighbor care study.
- CCPDI has been given more money on their contract because the Professional Development Award checks are now being processed through the college.

**Child Care Subsidy**

Because of the simplifications to child care policy, caseload has increased dramatically. Child Care is an entitlement so we can't ask for more money. In the year 2000 there was an increase to child care subsidy rates. Since then, rates have gone up, but subsidy rates have not. Utah is now at the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile instead of the recommended 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

The Department has requested 3.7, plus an additional 2 million be put into the Governor's budget to keep us at our current operating budget (including subsidy). If we don't get the request, the money will need to be taken out of our current pot of money. Once the Governor announces his budget, the Department is silent. That's when the advocates need to step in. We are working on updating the Talking Points Card that can be used to educate the legislators.

**CCDF Matching Funds**

Kindergarten in Utah is non-compulsory, therefore, the Child Care Bureau allows us to count that money for child care match. The Dept has been working with Granite and Davis School Districts to give us some of their money for us to use as match. 70% of that needs to go to subsidy. The other 30% will be put into Youth Connections grants.

In order to seal the deal, we are giving Granite and Davis Districts \$45,000 so that they can start some afterschool programs in their area. The school districts understand that if there are budget cuts, the contracts may end. They will be three-year contracts as funding is available.

The Youth Connections money will be governed by the same policies as exist now.

This project has broad support from the Governor's office. Stan Eckersly is supportive of child care. This won't cost taxpayers any money.

There is a risk that the legislature will look at this and say, "Oh good, now they don't need any more money." We just have to hope that we have enough support from key legislators.

**Job Posting**

The Commission on Women and Families Program Specialist position is being posted this week.

**ITEM 8      Old & New Business, Chair Comments**

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If you have suggestions for a keynote speaker for the May Provider conference, please let Carrie, Christi, or Sheila know.

## **Item 9      Public Comment**

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There was a 25 million dollar bonus to the state for the reduction of out of wedlock pregnancies and abortions. The Department plans to set the money aside for now. There is a research study being conducted on the out of wedlock grants.

Karen Silver-

- In her visits to Employment Centers, the most comments she received were that there is no child care for job search. There is also no child care for medical appointments, or other service appointments. One lady has gone without her dialysis for months because she has no child care for her children.
- Karen encouraged this council to get involved in a legislative arm. This would help the legislature and governor understand what the money means in terms of real life and real families and real children. There is an employer advisory committee who has an arm and they get legislation passed every single year. We should have the same opportunity to do that
- Encourage the Dept to look at a way to count the parent co-pay to bring down match. Lynette has already looked into it. It is against Federal regulation and no other state is doing it.
- The PTA is representing small business on the committee, but the PTA is not small.

**Adjourn**